Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A suturing device comprising:

a curved needle for advancing a thread along a path,

a first plurality of one-way engaging devices adapted to selectively engage the curved needle,

an arcuate reversing housing concentrically positioned about the curved needle for changing a direction of the one-way engaging devices wherein the arcuate reversing housing also engages the plurality of engaging devices,

an arcuate ~~driving means~~ driver concentrically positioned within the curved needle wherein the ~~driving means~~ arcuate driver moves along a path and is adapted to pivot the plurality of engaging devices causing the plurality of engaging devices to engage the needle, said ~~driving means~~ arcuate driver ~~comprising a driver~~ having a plurality of circumferentially spaced cavities, said first plurality of engaging devices being disposed within said cavities, and

Amendments to the Claims continued

a fixed way ~~means~~ for providing the path for the acuate ~~driving means~~ driver.

Claim 2 (original): The suturing device of claim 1 wherein the one-way engaging devices are blades having a slot wherein the slot is adapted to engage the needle.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The suturing device of claim 1 wherein the fixed way ~~means~~ has a second plurality of pivoting one-way engaging devices for engaging the curved needle, and a second ~~reversing means~~ reverser adapted to change [[a]] the direction of the second plurality of one-way engaging devices.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method of surgically suturing tissue comprising:

providing a driver having a cavity;

providing a blade with a slot, wherein interior surfaces of the slot are adapted to engage a curved needle, said blade being mounted within said cavity,

pivoting a blade within said cavity so that engagement between the interior surfaces of the slot and the needle occurs,

maintaining the engagement of the blade against the needle with a spring-like force,

driving the ~~bade~~ blade in a first direction such that the needle is also driven in a first direction,

advancing a first end of the needle out of a housing,

Amendments to the Claims continued

accepting the first end of the needle into the housing, and

coupling a thread to the needle such that the thread is pulled behind the needle as the needle moves out of the housing and back into the housing.

Claim 5 (new): The suturing device as defined in claim 1 in which said arcuate reversing housing has a plurality of circumferentially spaced cavities, said first plurality of one-way engaging devices being disposed within said cavities.

Claim 6 (new): A suturing device comprising:

a curved needle for advancing a thread along a path,

an arcuate driver concentrically positioned within said curved needle, said driver having a plurality of circumferentially spaced cavities and being movable along a path,

a plurality of blades pivotally carried within said circumferentially spaced cavities of said driver, each said blade having first and second ends,

an arcuate reverser concentrically positioned about said curved needle, said reverser having a plurality of circumferentially spaced cavities, one of said first and second ends of said blades being received within said circumferentially spaced cavities.

Claim 7 (new): The suturing device of claim 6 in which each said blade has a slot for engaging said needle.

Claim 8 (new): The suturing device as defined in claim 6 in which said cavities are generally triangular in shape.

Amendments to the Claims continued

Claim 9 (new): The suturing device as defined in claim 8 in which each of said generally triangular-shaped cavities narrows to an apex and then expands to form a sub-cavity, the other of said first and second ends of said blades being received within said sub-cavity.

Claim 10 (new): The suturing device as defined m claim 9, further including a plurality of springs disposed within said circumferentially spaced cavities of said reverser.